

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

USIA-06 PC-01 /026 W

-----222223 003684 /63

R 220411Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2760

AMEMBASSY SUVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 668

DEPARTMENT PASS TO PEACE CORPS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: FIJI PUBLIC SERVICES ASSOCIATION CRITICIZES PEACE CORPS

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE FOLLOWING RADIO BROADCAST
WAS HEARD ON WELLINGTON STATION 2YA AT 7:00 A.M.
FEBRUARY 22:

QUOTE: ANNOUNCER: THE FIJI PUBLIC SERVICE
ASSOCIATION HAS SEVERELY CRITICIZED THE AMERICAN PEACE
CORPS WORKERS IN THE COUNTRY. THE FIJI PSA CLAIMS
THEY'VE BEEN APPOINTED TO SENIOR JOBS IN FIJI'S
CIVIL SERVICE BECAUSE THE AMERICAN WORKERS HAVE DEGREES
FROM WHAT IT CALLS 'OBSCURE' UNIVERSITIES. WE SPOKE TO
CORRESPONDENT RAYMOND MOTI (SP?)....

REPORTER: WELL THE CRITICISM HAS MAINLY COME ABOUT
FROM THE FACT THAT THE NUMBER OF AMERICAN PEACE CORPS
WORKING HERE IN FIJI HAVE TAKEN UP A NUMBER
OF
KEY POSITIONS IN THE
COUNTRY'S CIVIL SERVICE AND THE
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PUBLIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION BELIEVES THAT THESE JOBS
COULD BE TAKEN BY QUALIFIED FIJI CITIZENS WHO HAVE BEEN
DEPRIVED OF OPPORTUNITIES OF ADVANCEMENT.

ANNOUNCER: THERE WAS ONE CLAIM THAT SOME OF THE
PEACE CORPS WORKERS ARE NOVICES IN THEIR PROFESSIONS
AND AREN'T PROPERLY TRAINED TO MEET FIJI'S REQUIREMENTS.

REPORTER: THIS IS TRUE THAT THE ASSOCIATIONS FEELS
THAT THESE PEOPLE ARE PROFESSIONALLY INCOMPETENT AND NOT
...NOT GEARED TO THE ASSIGNED TASKS THEY HAVE HERE IN
FIJI...AND THEY FEEL THAT THERE ARE LOCAL PEOPLE HERE
WHO CAN DO THE JOBS BETTER THAN THEM.

ANNOUNCER: THAT WAS SUVA CORRESPONDENT RAMOND MOTI.
UNQUOTE.

2. THE FOLLOWING BROADCAST WAS HEARD AT 8:30 A.M. THE
SAME DAY ALSO ON STATION 2YA:

QUOTE: ANNOUNCER: THE FIJI PUBLIC SERVICE
ASSOCIATION HAS SEVERELY CRITIZED THE AMERICAN PEACE
CORPS WORKERS IN THE COUNTRY. THE PUBLIC SERVICE
DESCRIBED THE AMERICAN VOLUNTEERS IN FIJI AS
'NOVICES' IN THEIR ASSIGNED TASKS. IT SAYS THAT, APART
FROM THEIR PROFESSIONAL INCOMPETENCE, THEIR PERSONAL
APPEARANCE AND CONDUCT ARE DISGRACEFUL. THE PSA SAYS
THAT BECAUSE AMERICAN PEACE CORPS WORKERS HAVE DEGREES
FROM WHAT IT CALLS 'SOME OBSCURE UNIVERSITY' THEY'VE
BEEN APPOINTED TO SENIOR JOBS IN FIJI'S CIVIL SERVICE.
UNQUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT IT IS UNREALISTIC TO
EXPECT THE PRESENCE OF A PEACE CORPS TO ATTRACT NO
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CRITICISM IN A HOST COUNTRY, I HAVE BEEN CONCERNED
TO AVOID IN FIJI, TONGA, WESTERN SAMOA, AND ULTIMATELY
IN THE COOK ISLANDS, A PRESENCE LARGE ENOUGH TO EVOKE
CHARGES THAT VOLUNTEERS WERE TAKING JOBS FROM LOCAL
PEOPLE. THAT IS MAINLY WHAT THIS CRITICISM APPEARS TO
BE. THAT IS WHY I HAVE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS OVER
THE ASSIGNMENT OF LARGE NEW CONTINGENTS OF VOLUNTEERS
TO THESE SMALL ISLAND COUNTRIES, ABSORPTION CAPACITIES
OF WHICH ARE LIMITED. THIS IS A SEPARATE ISSUE ENTIRELY
FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRAIN PLACED ON THIS EMBASSY'S
ABILITY TO SUPPORT PEACE CORPS OPERATIONS AS NUMBERS OF
VOLUNTEERS INCREASE. I WANT TO STRESS AGAIN MY NEED TO
BE CONSULTED AND MY CONCURRENCE OBTAINED PRIOR TO
REPEAT PRIOR TO ASSIGNMENT OF NEW VOLUNTEER GROUPS TO
THESE ISLANDS.

4. FOR SUVA: PERHAPS YOU COULD LOOK INTO THE BACKGROUND
OF FIJI PUBLIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION CRITICISM AND SUBMIT
A REPORT. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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